

Mary Kennedy

From: David Rempell [drempell@williamstownyouthcenter.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 10:31 AM
To: Mary Kennedy
Cc: Henry W. Art; Andrew Groff; Peter Fohlin
Subject: posting

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN

APR 09 2013

TOWN CLERK

1045 am

Good Morning, Mary - Please post a joint meeting of the BoS and Conservation Commission for Thursday, April 18th at 7:00 p.m. I believe there is already a meeting posted for the Selectmen's room so I guess this should be posted for third floor.

Agenda:

1. Formation of Committee for design of the Spruces Land
2. Use and management of town lands

Thanks,

David

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MINUTES
OF JOINT MEETING OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 18, 2013
7:00 P.M.

In attendance: David Rempell, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Hank Art, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Jane Allen, Ron Turbin, Tom Costley, Tom Sheldon, Harold Brotzman, Thomas Ennis, Van Ellet, Richard Schlessinger

1. Formation of Committee for Spruces Property: Chairman Rempell discussed the formation of a Committee to develop uses of the Spruces' property. He explained the FEMA grant and the fact that ultimately the Town of Williamstown will assume ownership of the Spruces property. A preliminary committee has already been formed and the committee has prepared a sketch showing possible uses of the land.

It was proposed that a member of the Board of Selectmen, a member of the Conservation Commission and a member of the Agricultural Commission join the members of the preliminary committee, Tom Hyde, Jack Madden, Andrew Groff and Libby Bartels.

Chairman Art suggested that the town committees evaluate and prepare a charge to be given to the new committee on uses of the Spruces' land. In addition, consideration should be given to the needs of the town.

Members of the public attending the Joint Meeting made the following suggestions:

- a. Robert Hatten suggested that one committee be appointed to decide on the uses of the Spruces property and the appropriate use of town owned property.
- b. Andy Hogeland suggested that it was important that someone with experience in land use planning be on the committee. In response, it was pointed out that Andrew Groff is the town planner and Libby Bartels is an architect.
- c. Robert Scerbo questioned as to which entity will have ownership of the Spruces.
- d. Kim Wells reminded the Boards that the agricultural land on the property will have to be allocated. He suggested that the land be used as an incubator for aspiring, young farmers. However, someone with agricultural experience should assume a leadership role.

Chairman Art asked Tim Kaiser whether it would be helpful to have someone with construction experience on the new committee. Mr. Kaiser replied that the Department of Public Works would be available to provide assistance.

Chairman Rempell concluded the discussion by stating that inquiries will be made to the three committees for appointment of members to the new committee.

2. USE AND MANAGEMENT OF TOWN LANDS

Chairman Art stated that the Conservation Commission will vote on the warrant articles regarding the uses of the Lowry property at its meeting scheduled before the Special Town Meeting on April 24, 2013. Chairman Art also questioned whether the Conservation Commission had to approve the use of Section 15A of Chapter 40.

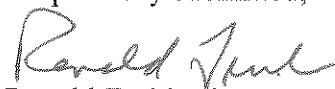
Regarding the use and management of town lands, Chairman Art stated that the powers and duties of the Conservation Commission should be guided by open space and recreation. It would be helpful if the goals of having the appropriate amount of open space and recreation in town be updated by a new master plan.

Members of the public then offered their views, as follows:

- a. Robert Scerbo emphasized that we should consider the most important uses of town land, including what is the purpose and use of the Lowry property. Mr. Scerbo also questioned the legitimacy of the vote regarding Section 15A of Chapter 40.
- b. Andy Hoagland mentioned that, in his opinion, we are moving too quickly on these issues and that all of the warrant articles should be tabled at the Special Town Meeting.
- c. Suzanne Kemple questioned the time tables for the development of affordable housing.
- d. Beth Phelps questioned whether the residents of the Spruces will have priority for the new affordable housing? The answer is "yes."
- e. Sarah Thurston asked why weren't the residents of the town informed about the FEMA grant. She also questioned the wisdom of destroying one community asset to create another community asset.
- f. Nancy Scerbo stated that we should consider looking at private lands for development of affordable housing. There are good models of affordable housing in other communities, such as Great Barrington.
3. Robert Scerbo suggested that the Board of Selectmen ask the Zoning Board of Appeals to look into Chapter 40 for purposes of creating growth incentive zones to facilitate the development of affordable housing.

3. ADJOURN: Ms Allen moved to adjourn. Mr Costley seconded and motion carried 10-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Turbin, Secretary of the
Board of Selectmen